

Cypress Creek Sub Area III Exposure Investigation: Common Questions and Answers

What is the purpose of this Exposure Investigation?

The Memphis and Shelby County Health Department and the Tennessee Department of Health are doing an Exposure Investigation (EI) in Cypress Creek Sub Area III. We will look at the amount of dieldrin and endrin in the blood of community members and at the amount of dieldrin and endrin in house dust.

What will I be asked to do?

If you decide to take part in this EI, you and the members of your household who are at least 12 years old will give a blood sample so that the amount of dieldrin and endrin in your blood can be measured. After testing your blood for these two chemicals, no other blood test will be done and blood left over will be thrown away safely. Your home will be vacuumed with a special vacuum cleaner to collect dust.

Why were my home and my household selected for testing?

We want to test the homes and blood of the people who have the greatest chance of being exposed to these pesticides. The soil in your backyard had enough dieldrin in it to need cleanup. That is why your home and household were selected.

When will the Exposure Investigation take place?

The EI team is scheduling sampling for the first two weeks of May.

What can I expect when the team comes to my house?

1. You will be contacted by a member of the EI team to schedule a day and time for sampling.
2. You will be asked not to vacuum your home for 1 week before the sampling.
3. There will be a team of five people who will be at your home at the scheduled time. We know that is a lot of people to invite into your home, but each member has a job. The EI team can be identified by their badges and employee identification.
4. You will be asked to sign consent forms, one for the blood test and one for the dust test. You will also be asked to sign a consent form for each of your children.
5. You will be asked many questions from a survey to help us understand more about you and your contact with soil.
6. You and anyone who lives in the house who is at least 12 years old will be asked to give a blood sample. A trained person will be present to take the sample.
7. There will be team members with a special vacuum cleaner. They will vacuum areas around your home to gather dust.
8. The team will leave with the samples, the signed consent forms and the completed survey. The whole process will take about 1 to 3 hours of your time.

How will you let me and my family know about our results?

You will receive the results of your blood test and of the dust sampling within 4 months. The results will be mailed to you. Also, someone from the Tennessee Department of Health will talk with you about your results. A report will be written for the community after that. The report will NOT identify you and will NOT contain any of your personal information.

What are the risks of participating in the Exposure Investigation?

- You and your family will have little risk giving the blood sample. You may have some discomfort. Sometimes giving blood can cause a bruise where the needle goes into the skin.
- You and your family will have no risk from allowing us to vacuum your house.

What are the benefits of participating in the Exposure Investigation?

- You will know if dieldrin and endrin have gotten into your house or body.
- You and your family will help your community by allowing us to find out if dieldrin and endrin have gotten into your house or your body.
- Nobody (including the Centers for Disease Control) knows how much of a chemical in soil can enter a house or a person. Information from this investigation will be used by scientists to learn more about how chemicals and people interact. Information from this investigation will help other communities like yours.

It is important for you and your family to understand what the Exposure Investigation results may or may not tell you, before it begins.

What an Exposure Investigation CAN tell us:

- If soil contaminated with dieldrin and endrin found its way into dust in houses.
- If the dieldrin and endrin have gotten into people in the community.

What an Exposure Investigation CANNOT tell us:

- It cannot tell you if past health problems were caused by dieldrin and endrin.
- It cannot tell you if future health problems will be caused by dieldrin and endrin.
- It cannot tell you what, if any, health problems are caused by dieldrin and endrin.

What will the Tennessee Department of Health and/or the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department do for me and my children if we have dieldrin and endrin in our bodies?

- No one knows how these pesticides affect the health of people who are exposed to low levels for a long time.
- There are no known medical treatments for people exposed to these pesticides, especially at low levels for a long time.
- We will review the sampling results for each person before we make any recommendations.

What will the Tennessee Department of Health and/or the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department do for me and my children if we have dieldrin and endrin in our house?

We will review the sampling results for each house before we make any recommendations.

If you have any questions about the Exposure Investigation please contact:

Calondra Tibbs, Environmental Epidemiologist
Memphis & Shelby County Health Department
Epidemiology Program
814 Jefferson Ave
Memphis, TN 38105
ctibbs@co.shelby.tn.us
Phone: 901.544.7743

Bonnie Bashor, Environmental Epidemiology
Tennessee Department of Health
1st Floor Cordell Hull Building
425 Fifth Ave North
Nashville, TN 37243
Bonnie.Bashor@state.tn.us
Phone: 800.404.3006 or 615.741.7247